

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the amendments and comments which follow.

Claims 2-64 and 66-81 were pending in this application. In this response, claims 2-5, 11-20, 34-44, 48, 66-77, and 79-81 are amended, claims 82 and 83 are canceled, and no claim is added. Thus, claims 2-64 and 66-81 are pending.

Support for the foregoing amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations in the original disclosure: the original claims and the specification, p. 5, l. 16 – p. 6, l. 30, p. 8, l. 25 – p. 9, l. 21, and p. 11, ll. 20-29. Thus, no prohibited new matter is believed to have been introduced. Amendments are made without disclaimer or prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue any cancelled subject matter in a continuing application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of full consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed August 7, 2006.

REJECTIONS UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 112

Claims 2-64 and 66-83 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention for the reason presented at page 2 of the Official Action. Applicants disagree with the rejection. However, to expedite prosecution “and/or” has been

replaced with “or” in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

REJECTIONS UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 103

Claims 2-10, 12-36, 66-73, and 82-83 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,833,618 to Verma et al. (hereinafter “*Verma*”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0018545 to Crichlow (hereinafter “*Crichlow*”) for the reasons presented at pages 3-7 of the Official Action.

In this response Applicants cancel claims 82 and 83, and rewrite claims 11, 48, and 80 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11, 48, and 80 were objected to as including allowable subject matter. In addition, claims 2-10 and 12-47 now depend from allowable claim 11; claims 49-64 now depend from allowable claim 48; and claims 66-79 and 81 now depend from allowable claim 80. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted at the number indicated below.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,

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